

REMARKS

This reply is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 10, 2006. Claims 1-46 are pending in the application and are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant has amended the claims as shown to correct matters of form. Applicant submits that the claims presented herein correspond to the originally filed claims and have been amended to correct the deficiencies noted by the Examiner with regard to the Preliminary Amendment dated May 31, 2005. Applicant apologizes for any inconvenience. Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-46 stand restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

- Group I (claims 1-19 and 42-44): drawn to a transition metal compound;
- Group II (claims 29, 31 and 32): drawn to a supported transition metal compound;
- Group III (claims 20-28, 30 and 33): drawn to a catalyst composition comprising a transition metal compound and an activator;
- Group IV (claims 34, 36, 38 and 40): drawn to a polymerization process in the presence of composition Group II;
- Group V (claims 35, 37, 39 and 41): drawn to a polymerization process in the presence of composition of Group III; and
- Group VI (claims 45-46): drawn to oligomerization process.

The Examiner states that Groups I-VI do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because the Groups lack the same or corresponding special technical features. The Examiner states that the claims lack the same or corresponding special technical features because the transition metal complex of Group I does not make a contribution over Zhao et al. (US 2004/0044150) and Llatas et al. (US 6,410,768).

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-19 and 42-44) with traverse for prosecution on the merits. Applicant traverses the rejection on grounds that Applicant has amended the claims as shown herein so that each claim has the same or corresponding special technical features of claim 1. Furthermore, claims 1-46 are patentable over Zhao et al. (US 2004/0044150) and Llatas et al. (US 6,410,768) because, at the very least, those references do not teach, show, or suggest a transition metal compound represented by the formula LMX wherein M is a Group 3 to 11 metal;

L is a bulky bidentate or tridentate neutral ligand that is bonded to M by two or three heteroatoms and at least one heteroatom is nitrogen; X is a substituted or unsubstituted catecholate ligand provided that the substituted catecholate ligand does not contain a 1,2-diketone functionality, as required in every claim.

Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1712.

Respectfully submitted,

May 9, 2006
Date

Catherine L. Bell
Catherine L. Bell
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,444

ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, Texas 77522-2149
Phone: 281-834-5982
Fax: 281-834-2495

CLB:re/clm